

Open Educational Resources (OER) are educational materials with intellectual property licenses that give the public legal permission to freely use, share, and repurpose the content. These teaching and learning resources can increase access to high-quality education, and they can be adapted to local cultures, languages, and communities.

The OER below exemplify the range of learning opportunities available to match the wide range of entrepreneurial efforts. The list targets materials spanning leadership training and professional development, to economics, to workplace conflict management. The resources supplement existing professional experiences and are best paired with other learning activities. While these resources are not all inclusive, we hope they will spark new ideas for you.

OER FOR BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

“Inclusive Leadership Training: Becoming a Successful Leader”

This course incorporates quizzes and real-life scenarios to help learners hone their leadership skills. Students around the world connect to share ideas and techniques to add to their own knowledge. The course culminates with each student creating a Personal Leadership Plan to help them continue to grow and learn as a leader in their organization or community.

TIME: 4 sessions/1 hour per session

TYPE: Online Course

SOURCE: Catalyst

LINK: <https://www.edx.org/course/inclusive-leadership-training-becoming-catalystx-il2x-1#>

“Does Africa Need the International Monetary Fund?”

This powerpoint presentation is for students who wish to gain an initial understanding of the IMF or who want to participate in a higher-level dialogue around the subject of international finance. It includes notes to contextualize the information on each slide. This resource gives a group of students the baseline knowledge needed for discussion or further research.

TIME: 20 minutes + discussion

TYPE: Powerpoint

SOURCE: U Cape Town

LINK: <https://www.oercommons.org/courses/does-africa-need-the-international-monetary-fund>

“Building Strategy and Performance”

This textbook gives a broad overview of what is necessary for a business to have continual growth. Chapter two focuses on tangible and intangible resources and how to create and maintain quality over quantity. This course is helpful for anyone growing a business or organization, learning how to focus their energy to establish the strongest foundation possible.

TIME: Varies

TYPE: Textbook

SOURCE: London Business School

LINK: <http://www.oercommons.org/courses/building-strategy-and-performance/view>

“Crafting an Elevator Pitch”

This page outlines the importance of creating an “elevator pitch” for personal or professional promotional situations. This guide highlights what to and what not to include and how to capitalize on your achievements in a short amount of time. Elevator pitches are key tools to engage in networking and to quickly generate interest from potential employers, backers, or coworkers.

TIME: Varies

TYPE: Reference Page

SOURCE: MindTools

LINK: <https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/elevator-pitch.htm>

“Career Success”

This course offers eight modules of reading material on different facets of professionalism and career success. Two highlights include: week 1 addresses personal goal setting, a skill which any driven individual would appreciate; and week 4 covers organizational and human resources, information invaluable for individuals starting new businesses with multiple employees.

TIME: 8 weeks/24 hours total

TYPE: Course Materials

SOURCE: Hawai'i Community College

LINK: <https://www.skillscommons.org/handle/taac-cct/5797#>

“English Grammar and Style”

This course focuses on English grammar and fluidity, making text more readable and impressive. Refining one's writing ability is an important skill for those starting a business in an ever more interconnected economic climate.

TIME: 8 weeks/32 hours total

TYPE: Online Course

SOURCE: U Queensland

LINK: <https://www.edx.org/course/english-grammar-style-uqx-write101x-2#>

“Negotiations and Conflict Management”

This course offers valuable information and perspective on the art of negotiation. It describes the effects of biases and how to identify them in yourself and others. It also includes modules on conflict management and cross-cultural and international negotiation. These skills are useful in international business, as well as with migrant populations.

TIME: Varies

TYPE: Course Materials

SOURCE: Saylor Academy

LINK: <https://learn.saylor.org/course/view.php?id=68>

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL OER FOR AFRICA

Merlot Africa Network (MAN)

The MERLOT Africa Network (MAN) is a network of partnerships between African and US educational institutions affiliated with the Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (MERLOT) and leading global eLearning providers with educational programs targeting Sub-Saharan Africa. MAN's goal is to facilitate communities of eLearning expertise and capacity building for open education, scholarship, and development in Africa.

Open Africa Toolkit

The WikiAfrica Open Africa Toolkit is a website that introduces users to OER, open data, and information on open licensing.

OER Africa

OER Africa is a repository for quality OER in thematic areas for Africa. It also supports the creation and adaptation of OER in the following themes: Agriculture OER, Health OER, Teacher Education OER, Foundation OER, and OER Initiatives in Africa.

openAFRICA

openAFRICA is a free public and independent source for open data for Africa, maintained by Code for Africa. Data can be downloaded, uploaded, stored, or made available publicly. Search for data by country. openAFRICA runs with support from the Africa Media Initiative (AMI), the World Bank Institute (WBI), and Google.

OER@AVU

The OER@AVU Portal hosts a collection of OER textbooks

and modules in English, French, and Portuguese. The academic materials focus on enhancing science teacher education and subjects related to Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). OER@AVU is a collaborative initiative of the African Virtual University (AVU), a Pan African Intergovernmental Organization whose aim is to significantly increase access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of ICT. AVU is currently the leading African institution in producing and using OERs.

School of Open

School of Open is an initiative run by a global community of volunteers providing free online courses, face-to-face workshops, and innovative training programs on the meaning, application, and impact of “openness” in the digital age. School of Open also provides educational materials on how to add a Creative Commons license to work, find free resources for classroom use, remix a music video, and more. It is a product of Peer 2 Peer University and Creative Commons. Read about School of Open Africa initiatives in Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda here.

Obami

The Obami portal's OpenMe! course contains modules and activities for elementary students to learn about Creative Commons, content licensing, and resource exchange.

African Health OER Network

The African Health OER Network (“the Network”) advances health education in Africa by creating and promoting free, openly licensed teaching materials created by Africans to share knowledge, address curriculum gaps, and support health education communities. The Network enables participants to develop, adapt, and share health education resources, in order to strengthen the intellectual and policy infrastructures within and between African health training programs and facilitate dialogue around health education.

GENERAL LINKS

OERCommons.org Online courses and reference materials

OERAfrica.org Resources curated specifically for an African audience

edX.org Full catalogue of massive open online courses (MOOCs)

Skillscommons.org Courses for technical skills training

Openstax.org Openly licensed textbooks

Lumen Learning Openly licensed digital course materials

YALI.STATE.GOV/COURSES YALI Network online courses